

# The Snyder Signal

TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR

SNYDER, Scurry County, Texas, Friday, April 2, 1915.

NUMBER FORTY-TWO

## DISTRICT COURT ADJOURNED

### DUTCH JORDAN MURDER CASE CONTINUED--FIVE INDICTMENTS IN PETERS MURDER CASE

## GRAND JURY MAKES THEIR FINAL REPORT

### August Body Was in Session Eleven Days and Returned Eleven Bills of Indictment--Nine Felonies

For the first time in several years, the District Court of Scurry County finished up the work of the term in two weeks and adjourned last Saturday.

Judge Thomas said if the legislature had given to Scurry County the additional week that was asked for it would have been practicable to continue for full time. The Jordan case was continued because the parties could not have gotten ready for trial this week, but had the term extended over four weeks the case would have probably been taken up.

When the Signal went to press last Thursday night the Court was engaged in sounding public sentiment in the Edward B. (Dutch) Jordan case on the motion of defendant for a change of venue. A great number of citizens were questioned. Men in all lines of life and all business callings to see what was the state of popular feeling in the matter. After a night session the court reserved a ruling till Friday morning and then by agreement the motion was withdrawn and the case was continued in the September term of the Court.

The Grand Jury made a careful investigation into the killing of Peters last fall near Pryor and returned indictments charging murder against Pete Long, Emerson Armstrong, Marvin Armstrong, Sherman Armstrong and J. T. Chaffin. These cases were continued to next term and bail fixed for each of the accused at \$1,500.

On Friday morning the Court passed sentence on Jack Martin Tucker and A. E. Tinker, whose convictions were reported last week. Albert Tinker has thirty days from date of judgment in which to perfect his appeal. His bond was set at \$2,500. It is understood that Tucker will not appeal. He was given two years in each of the cases for burglary and the two sentences were made concurrent.

In the case of W. T. Raleigh Medicine Company vs. Gen. Barnhart, et al., after plaintiff's cause went to court on defendant's demurrer, Barnhart filed cross action for damages in the sum of \$10,000, but this was dismissed.

A suit for debt of Chas. W. Snowden vs. W. M. McLaury et al. was decided in favor of plaintiff.

Homer Merritt, Kynart, in removal proceedings of minority position granted.

In the case of W. W. Smith vs. W. L. Gross et al., trespass to try title, the American Well & Prospecting Company filed a motion for a new trial. Overruled.

The case of the State vs. Ed. Hase charged with keeping gaming house was dismissed.

On Saturday morning the court took up the case of Robert Huett, charged with burglarizing the store of Norris & Co., at Ira. The defendant was a mere boy. His mother accompanied him to the court house. The boy entered a plea of guilty and the jury rendered a verdict giving him two years and recommended a suspended sentence. Because of his mere youth and for the further reason that this was the first time the boy was ever found guilty of a criminal offense, the Court pronounced suspended sentence and delivered a fatherly lecture that the lad will never forget. The Court's lecture caused not only the boy and his mother to weep, but many men in the court room could not keep back tears.

It is said that this was the first case in the history of the county that the Grand Jury remained in session

for the full court-term. They made an exhaustive investigation of all criminal matters and looked into the business conditions and conduct of all the departments of county government. They filed their final report Saturday morning and were discharged. Following is a copy of the Grand Jury report.

Snyder, Texas, March 25, 1915 To the Hon. John H. Thomas, Judge of the 39th Judicial District of Texas.

We, the Grand Jury, empaneled by you for the March term, 1915, of the District Court of Scurry County, Texas, beg leave to submit the following as our final report.

This body has been in session for a period of eleven days, and after diligent inquiry into all violations of law that have come to our knowledge and after mature deliberations, have been able to present eleven bills of indictment, nine of which were for felonies and two were for misdemeanors. During our deliberations we have examined about 175 witnesses summoned before us from all parts of the county.

In our investigations we find that the officials of the county charged with the enforcement of the law are doing their duty and we take this occasion to commend them for their zeal and for their efficient services which are being rendered in this respect and urge upon our officials a continuance of the enforcement of all laws without relaxation or compromise.

We make this suggestion to the various sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, County Attorneys and Constables, however, to be a little more diligent in looking after the misdemeanors within the jurisdiction of the Justice Courts and thereby relieve the Grand Jury of investigating matters of such character as could be promptly disposed of in such courts, not only as to saving of time to this body and expense to the county where such investigations are to be had by the Grand Jury, but it is the experience of this body, if such cases are left for the Grand Jury investigation the important witnesses will have made a temporary move and are out of the county when such body does convene, thereby preventing the Grand Jury from getting any results, even after an investigation is made. In this connection we would say that we find that there is a great deal of petty crimes being committed throughout the county and especially among the younger citizenship with regard to violations of the liquor and gambling laws and we would urge the officers of the county to continue their efforts to suppress all such violations and also we urge the citizenship of the county to aid and support the officers in the enforcement of these laws.

The Grand Jury especially calls attention of Physicians and Undertakers to the laws of the State relating to Vital Statistics and urge that prompt and efficient records be made and reports be promptly filed with the proper authorities.

We have visited the buildings and premises belonging to the County and find them in excellent condition. The Court House is in good condition, and also the jail and the prisoners are well cared for and no room for complaint and we desire to commend the officers in charge of these properties.

Having been advised by the Court that the County had obtained the services of an auditor to investigate the finances of the county, we did not

## TRULY A LAND OF OPPORTUNITIES

### SNYDER DESTINED TO BE CITY OF 10,000--WEST TEXAS ATTRACTING ATTENTION

Springtime has crested late in coming this year. We had an unusually cold March and April came in with cloudy, misty weather and a little bit of snow and the indicator on the Signal's thermometer pointing to 34 degrees above zero. The moon full on March 30 and next Sunday will be Easter.

This cold snap is probably the regulation Easter disturbance and a soaking rain would be welcome.

Farmers are getting their lands ready for planting and the land is in good condition. The people expect a good crop season and most of the farmers are in shape to make a crop with less advanced aid than for several years. A great many new people have come into our farming districts and others are coming. West Texas is attracting good people from everywhere and Scurry county will surely support a population of 50,000, and that many people will be here within a few years.

With the coming of the Katy railroad and a response from the Santa Fe and the R. & P. together with the location here of a consignment and other industrial concerns, Snyder is destined to be a city of 10,000 or 15,000 people.

The time is ripe. Smith and East Texas and some of our neighboring States must find homes for their energetic young men and women and they are hearing that West Texas can furnish the opportunities.

The truth is breaking through the prejudice that has so long been crusted over the minds of people back yonder. Come right on in, Scurry county.

### HER MOTHER DIED WEDNESDAY AT FORT WORTH

Mrs. C. W. Hutchison returned on Tuesday from Fort Worth where she was called two weeks ago to the bedside of her mother, Mrs. J. J. Hutchison. The mother passed away on Wednesday of last week. Mrs. Hutchison has the sympathies of all her Scurry county friends.

### Prayer Meeting Contest

Wednesday night the weather was such as to interfere with the attendance. The attendance however was such as to encourage those who were present. The following are the figures:

	Total At.	Per Cent.
Methodist	28	7
Baptist	20	5
Christian	21	5

This is the second week of the contest and the returns show that the Christian Church leads with two points above the other two churches.

### Sick Man Died in Box Car

A white man (white) five years old went to his spring the other day and showed to be in an advanced stage of tuberculosis. He admitted the fact. No one seemed to be willing to take him into the house and care for him. Some railroad men made up a purse and gave him and also purchased him some food and gave him some quinine with which to make a bed. He was permitted to remain in the station all time to look up. Tuesday night he went out into the night and the next day he was found dead in a box car. He had \$2.25 of the money the railroad men had given him. Papers on his person showed that his name was Monroe Reed. His father resides at Webb City, Mo.

It is necessary to recommend a finance committee at this time.

We wish to tender our thanks to the District Attorney, County Attorney, the Court, the Sheriff and his officers and the Grand Jury for the valuable assistance rendered us during our deliberations.

Having finished our labors, we respectfully ask that we be discharged for the term.

Respectfully submitted,  
HORACE HOLLEY,  
Foreman.

## UNITED STATES FINANCES WAR

### ENORMOUS LOANS ARE BEING MADE TO WARRING NATIONS

New York, March 27--Bankers here, it was announced today, have nearly completed arrangements to extend credit to Great Britain, France, Italy and other countries in addition to the \$10,000,000 loan to Germany.

The French credit, it is said will be \$50,000,000 and the English twice as large. Negotiations are in progress for a loan to Russia in addition to the \$75,000,000 she recently obtained. Italy is likely to obtain a credit.

Most of the loans are expected to take a form in which they can be sold to the public. Bankers say extension of these credits makes it possible to keep mills running and workers employed that could be idle except for the extraordinary demand due to the war.

### SNYDER LADY KILLED FIFTY FOUR RATS

Mrs. J. P. Beck in the east part of town, has inaugurated a war on rats in her neighborhood and while she has quite a number of good helpers she is calling for recruits so that the entire rodent population may be exterminated. Mrs. Beck led an attack on the streetside of the county Wednesday and took 54 rat seals and is not through yet. She believes that if any are left they will be like Mexican revolutionists, will hold up again in a few weeks, hence she wants to clean up the camp now.

### Tom Green County Wit

The San Angelo Dispatch announced that Tom Green county was "wet" by a majority of 38 in Wednesday's election.

### FARMER ACCIDENTALLY SHOT ON W. D. SIMS PLACE

Mr. Cleland Odell, who learned last year on Mr. W. D. Sims' place in the northeast part of the county had the unfortunate fate Thursday evening to get seriously shot. He was out with his gun and in some way it was accidentally discharged. Some of the shot lodged in Mr. Odell's left knee and a part of the charge struck his left hand inflicting a serious wound that the little farmer said of the hand were torn up. It is said that more than thirty stitches were required in dressing the injuries.

### THE GEM THEATRE RAYS BUILDING

The Dreamland is no longer a dream--the name has been changed to the Gem Theatre and is under new management commencing Saturday, April 1, and Mrs. Hase advises the Signal that she has purchased the building on the south side of the square next door to the Manhattan hotel. It is understood that this structure will be converted into a permanent "movie" house and there expect to begin work tonight.

Mrs. Hase says: "Please tell the people through the Signal that I intend a careful selection in the movies to suit the day. I guarantee that the very best service possible will be given and the conduct of the affairs under the new management will be of the highest nature and the leading new attractions will be presented. I have arranged with the most popular film companies to supply the better grade of 'movie' pictures and I believe they will be appreciated. I desire further to thank the great number of people who have expressed themselves as being favorable to the efforts I have placed into building a modern picture show for Snyder. Respectfully soliciting the patronage of all lovers of moving picture entertainment, I promise to exert my every effort for the pleasure of the public.

We have purchased a \$750 player piano and the high cost of moving into new quarters will prevent an elaborate arrangement of the interior of the show house at present, but that will come later as we expect to expand before we wait."

## CHURCH AFFECTED BY DECISION

### RULING DENYING TO CONFERENCE CONTROL OF INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY

Chicago, Ill. March 29--A ruling that the actual physical property of a Methodist church is under the control of a church and not under the jurisdiction of a Methodist Church Conference was upheld by the Appellate Court here today.

The ruling was in the case of the Rock River Conference against the Trinity Methodist Episcopal church. The Conference presented the claim that it had complete jurisdiction over all Methodist church property on the ground that it was a conventional organization. The Appellate Court upheld the superior court which maintained the distinction between a Methodist church and a Methodist church building. The decision affects over ten thousand Methodist churches in the United States, the aggregate value of whose real estate holdings is more than \$20,000,000, according to Emil Warren of counsel for the church.

### FORMER SNYDER GIRL MARRIED AT SEYMOUR

Miss Gladys Watkins and Mr. Cecil Tyson were married on Tuesday evening March 23rd, at the Presbyterian Manse in Seymour, Texas. Rev. C. C. Howard performed the ceremony and he writes the Signal that the groom is a splendid young man.

The bride formerly resided in Snyder and has many friends here. She has been at Seymour for the past year assisting her mother, Mrs. W. A. Watkins in the hotel business. The many friends of Miss Gladys will be in attendance. The best paper at Seymour published the following report of the marriage:

Mr. Cecil Tyson and Miss Gladys Watkins met one by their friends on Tuesday evening and got married before sundown and the young lady was very happy. Then their friends met one by Cecil. This is how it happened. The wedding had been planned for next month when all shakers affairs were to have been made up. The groom decided that was a little too much for him to wait, so after supper Tuesday while a bunch of their friends had gone to the picture show to see "Hummer" June, this couple did some running away themselves, went down to the Presbyterian parsonage and got themselves quietly married by Rev. C. C. Howard.

After the share and news of the wedding had leaked out a drummer was sent up to the room who told Mr. Tyson a man whom he spoke to him in the office. When he came down a crowd of young fellows waited him up till he got an auto, went out as far as Madeline, built up a fire and kept the groom there till after 1 o'clock.

The bride is the pretty daughter of Mr. W. A. Watkins, proprietress of the Washington Hotel. She has been a favorite among the young people since first coming to Seymour and has proven quite an attraction to the members of the Washington with her sunny and vivacious. The groom is a well-known man who works at the Western Pharmacy. His friends think so much of him they don't mind playing a grass on him. The best wishes of all are with the young couple.

### Primitive Baptist Church

The Signal learns that the Primitive Baptist people who have heretofore maintained their church organization at Bethel are planning to move to Snyder. They will have preaching at the North Ward School building on the 8th and Sunday in the month. By Elder Redline and it is their purpose then to make Snyder the home of their church and have preaching on the second and fourth Sunday a in each month.

### Opens Real Estate Office

Mr. J. B. Pickle has gone into the real estate business and has opened his office over the Owl Drug Store where he will be glad to meet his friends. See his announcement in this paper.

## DIVERSIFICATION AND ENTERPRISES

### BEST MOISTURE SEASON THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN SEVERAL YEARS

From all indications the fruit crop is safe and Scurry county will have an abundant production this year. Citizens should begin now to make plans to care for the fruit as it matures.

The Signal would suggest the establishment of canning factories and Snyder should build a large one and create a market for all kinds of fruit and vegetables. It would be worth while to give especial attention to tomatoes. Scurry county also produces the best flavored and larger specimens of tomatoes than any section in the world.

A fruit factory and syrup mill would also thrive here as both these products, broom corn and sorghum are thrifty crops in this section.

Prunus will also find a ready market as there is a great demand for them.

Melons of all kinds do well here and every family that has a space for a truck patch will profit by raising something everybody consumes.

Those suggestions prior to planting time should give signal readers warning to commence early to plan diversification.

### New Trial in Snyder

Ordinarily a little disturbance in justice circles doesn't create any noticeable excitement. If a fellow is accused of a slight larceny or some such minor offense before the mayor or Justice of the Peace and whatever severity of the case and dignity of the state there may be a prompt judgment and the people get it in rather quick time. It was different here last Saturday. A negro accused of having shot and killed a white man, James Brown, charged with a violation of his criminal obligation and for free-fighting his opponent and to make an assault upon the wife of his victim.

Quite a crowd of men were drawn through Snyder to the court room to witness the trial. Up to within the first few months there have been no negroes here and therefore a some negro in the court had never been seen here before.

Justice Brown's Court room proved too small a place to accommodate the crowd and court adjourned to the District Court room.

The wife of the accused was present, but instead of coming in a prosecutor, her testimony was in defense of her man. Other witnesses were examined by County Attorney Weems and the evidence showed the affair to be a family quarrel and nobody hurt.

The defendant had waived his right to a jury trial and after hearing witnesses describe the disturbance, the Court rendered a judgment of "not guilty" and Baker and his faithful spouse went back together to the ancestral precinct of their home, hoping to experience no further interruptions in the course of their criminal pastimes.

### Church Folks Home Again

The congregation of the Church of Christ had services in their new location on Santa Fe street. This was the first service since they moved their building. Elder A. H. Lawrence was here in full his appointment. The membership are pleased with their change.

### Adelphia Class Meet

The Adelphia Class of the First Christian Church met on March 25 with Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Dodson. Eleven members were present and several visitors.

George Brown acted as president. Roll call and reading of minutes by Mrs. Ed. Ward, secretary-treasurer. After the business was transacted delicious refreshments were served.

### Accident at Light Plant

The electric light plant people had considerable trouble with their machinery Thursday night and in working on it Burnie Hase got the end of one of his thumbs cut off. There were no lights on during the night.